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**JESSE JACKSON ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

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Dated: December 01, 2003

Reference To: CC Docket No. 02-6

Federal Communication Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. Southwest  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to request an appeal for an extension of the Jesse Jackson Academy 471 application number 311729 and funding request number 851011. The following reasons are given as justification for this request.

The Jesse Jackson Academy is a charter school under contract with the Texas Education Agency. We are located in Houston, Texas. Our student population consists of "at risk" youth, ages 16 to 20, who have been expelled from the public school system, high school dropouts, youth offenders on probation, and pregnant and parenting teens. Nevertheless, Jesse Jackson Academy has graduated over 300 students with Texas Education Agency certified high school diplomas over the past three years.

The mission of Jesse Jackson Academy is to provide a strong technology-based quality education for this student population through innovative academic programs. The academy offers a comprehensive curriculum of academic classes in an atmosphere of positive challenges and reinforcements. Our aim is to provide a safe, positive, caring, learning environment in which all students can learn.

Jesse Jackson Academy presently leases property in the city-owned Business and Technology Office Complex located in an economic empowerment zone in the greater Houston area. This facility (approximately 8500 square feet) is becoming overcrowded and prohibits our ability to fulfill our mission of providing a safe, small class, learning environment that is conducive to effective learning.

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Unlike traditional schools that are authorized to create taxing districts to fund a portion of their school's budget, Texas charter schools are not permitted to levy or collect taxes based on property assessments. Inability to collect local taxes constitutes a serious barrier to Jesse Jackson Academy's local fiscal capacity to fund school repairs and renovation or to purchase alternate or new facilities.

Jesse Jackson Academy encountered some obstacles that prevented the utilization of E-Rate during the grant period. During the same time that the E-Rate grant was awarded, Jesse Jackson Academy received a grant from the Texas Education Agency in the amount of \$876,038 for charter school repair and renovation. The new school property (over 15,000 sq.ft) has been purchased and the repair and renovation of the facility is presently under way.

Mr. Vanoy Harris of Mission Control initially approached Dr. Jackson (superintendent) about E-Rate, and urged him to use his company as a service provider. His proposal provided for integration of technology into core curriculum, automation of the academy facilities, staff development, and most importantly critical thinking by the students to meet the criteria for the State mandated student assessment test. However, his timetable for implementing the program would have forced the school to purchase technology the present facility could not accommodate. Even if JJA had chosen to acquire the Technology the E-Rate Grant offered, the school's present location prohibited the installation, configuration, and implementation of High-End Technology of such magnitude.

Dr. Jackson, subsequently hired Compu-Lit to assist in creating a design to phase in the technology as the new facility could accommodate new technology. The relationship that the school has developed with Compu-Lit will allow JJA to have input and control over the technology being installed will be high-end. All E-Rate monies will be spent in the best interest of the academy through a process that Compu-Lit set up for the school's monitoring and review.

The installation of E-Rate sponsored technology in the new facility will make a tremendous difference by improving the learning environment. It will give our dedicated teachers the resources needed to integrate technology into the classroom, and the state-of-the-art computer lab will contribute to the improved academic performance by our students.

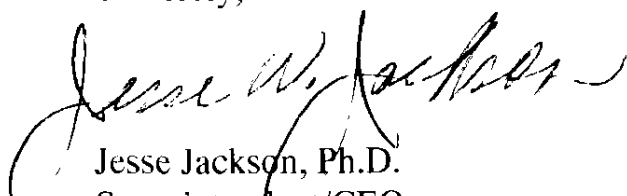
The support of E-Rate will allow our students, instructors and parents to benefit tremendously from exposure to the far-reaching wonders of the Internet through computerized internal connections that creates windows of opportunity for our students to compete in the 21st century.

Because of the delay in the construction of the New School it was impossible to meet the June 2003 date of completion. Construction of the new facility has been completed to the point where the e rate system can begin to be installed. The new target date is August 2004.

We are asking on behalf of the Board of Directors, parents, students, teachers, and the Community that the Federal Communication Commission grant a project extension to August 2004.

Please give our appeal for extension your most favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Jesse Jackson, Ph.D.  
Superintendent/CEO